GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:580
ANSWERED ON:27.07.2005
JOINT FORUM TO FIGHT TERRORISM
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Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a joint forum to fight terror has been formed by India, China and Russia as reported in the Asian Age dated June 3, 2005;

(b) if so, the details including the areas decided for mutual co-operation;

(c) the benefits likely to be accrued therefrom;

(d) whether Indian and US has decided to strengthen their economic co-operation further;

(e) if so, the details alongwith the amount of trade during 2003-04, 2004-05 and till date;

(f) whether the Government proposes to sign a bilateral non-proliferation treaty with USA;

(g) if so, the details in this regard alongwith the action takes thereon; and

(h) the likely impact of the said forum on the Indo-US relations?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

(a),(b)& (c) The Foreign Ministers of India, China and Russia met in Vladivostok on 2nd June 2005 and agreed to cooperate trilaterally in combating new threats and challenges. The three countries have agreed that terrorism should be combated in a consistent, sustained and comprehensive manner.

(d) & (e) In order to strengthen economic cooperation further, India and US launched the re-invigorated India-US Economic Dialogue on June 1, 2005 in Washington DC. The two Co-Chairpersons - Deputy Chairman Planning Commission, Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia on the Indian side and Economic Policy Assistant to the US President and Director of the National Economic Council, Allan Hubbard agreed to continue to coordinate closely on the four tracks in the Economic Dialogue (Trade, Commerce, Finance, and Environment). A CEOs Forum was set up during the visit of Prime Minister to the United States from 18-20 July 2005, so as to involve senior members of the US and Indian business communities to provide private sector inputs to the discussions. It consists of 10 CEOs each from India and USA. The total India-US trade in merchandise and commodities was $ 21.7 billion in 2004, an increase of about 20% over last year`s figures. Indian exports were at US $ 15.6 billion while Indian imports were worth US $ 6.1 billion, with a trade surplus of US $ 9.5 billion in favour of India. While Indian exports to US in the first quarter (Jan-March) of 2005 rose from US $ 3.8 billion to US $ 4.3 billion, exports from US to India have gone up from US $ 1.2 billion to US $ 1.7 billion.

(f) No.

(g) Does not arise.

(h) The trilateral cooperation referred to in (a), (b), & (c) above is not targeted against any country and therefore, would not have a negative impact on India`s relations with other countries.